

# TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS



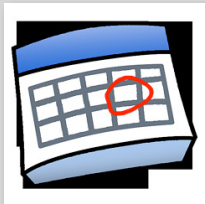
**Making Life Easier for Parkland Faculty & Alleviating the Overload**

## WHAT GOOGLE HAS TO OFFER

You're probably thinking, "I have been using Google as an online search engine for years. How can Google help me in the classroom?" With the mission: "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful," Google provides a number of tools for educational use.



**Google Docs** alleviates the stress of group work. Google Docs provides a forum for students to collaborate on documents online. Students must sign-in to access documents but can complete one assignment from remote locations. The excuses, "Jimmy isn't here today, and he has all of our work" no longer hold validity as all students have access to the documents...and Jimmy, who is absent, still has access to upload or edit his work from home.



**Google Calendar** keeps you involved and up-to-date. Create calendars for your classes, for your PLCs, for your personal life. The web-based calendar allows you to share calendars, publish calendars, and access calendars from any internet accessible device. Do you have a BlackBerry or iPhone? Sync Google calendar with your mobile device.



We've all used **Google Maps** to get driving directions, but now, Google Maps offers so much more. Google Maps has a new feature called "street view." "Street view" allows you to view a 3D panorama of a specific location. "Areas where images are available are indicated in blue." You Tube videos and images have also been linked to locations.



No time to visit all of your favorite websites? **Google Reader** sends the information to you. If you wish you had more time to visit your favorite sites to check out new updates, wish no longer. Google Reader is an RSS aggregator that filters all of your RSS feed to one location. You can customize Reader into subtitles to help you keep streaming information organized.



Google has introduced **iGoogle**, a customizable site, that allows you to bring the aspects of the web that you use to one central location.



The verb google entered the dictionary in 2006. The company name Google stems from a common misspelling of the word googol or what math-buffs know as  $10^{100}$ .

# CLASS CORNER

## Professional Learning Communities

[Google Docs](#) is an awesome way for members to collaborate on classroom materials. [Google Calendar](#) keeps members informed of meetings without constant email reminders or calendar printouts.

## Pedagogical Tool

From grades to differentiated instruction to teaching, there is simply too little time in our days. Let [Google Reader](#) help. If there are websites that you look to for innovative ideas for your classroom, set up an RSS feed. Anytime that site adds new information, an RSS feed filters into your Reader as a headline. You can quickly skim the information without going to each individual site, saving you valuable time!

## Foster Student Collaboration

Do you want students to work in groups but are tired of the same excuses: "Jimmy is absent and has our materials;" "Suzy is not here, so we weren't able to include her portion of the assignment. Look no further. [Google Docs](#) allows students to create one document online so that students can access the file from any device with internet access.

## Bring the World into Your Classroom

[Google Maps](#) and [Google Earth](#) now let you travel to remote areas across the globe and in space. Students can take virtual field trips to anywhere, broadening the

educational experience. [Google Maps](#) and [Google Earth](#) offer your students the ability to view pictures, watch videos, and take a virtual walk down our world's streets. Let your students explore the world in the safety of your classroom.

## Subject Specific

SCIENCE--Check out [Google Sky](#), [Google Mars](#), or [Google Moon](#) "to explore beyond [our] world."

SOCIAL STUDIES--Check out what Google Certified Teacher, [Cheryl Davis](#), did with her classes during the recent election. Google Earth also has available layers to view a location during a historic time period, e.g., [Ancient Rome 3D layer](#).

MATH--Check out [Google Earth](#) or [Google Maps](#) to determine distances or try out [Google SketchUp](#). Your students can apply mathematical concepts while creating 3D buildings.

ENGLISH--Check out [Google Lit Trips](#) or have your students refine Google searches using [Google Scholar](#).

NEXT  
ISSUE ■ **BLOGS**



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